## **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

---- ational Application No ./IB 03/05584 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUI IPC 7 G06F9/3 MATTER G06F13/40 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G06F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to daim No. X WO 01/73566 A (ANALOG DEVICES INC) 1-7,11 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) the whole document X EP 0 778 531 A (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC 1-4 CO) 11 June 1997 (1997-06-11) abstract Α claim 1; figure 3 5 Α EP 0 494 056 A (IBM) 8 July 1992 (1992-07-08)

| Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.  | Patent family members are listed in annex.   |
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| Special categories of cited documents:      A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance      E' earlier document but published on or after the International filing date      U' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)      O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means      document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed | <ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but clied to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search  3 November 2004  | Date of mailing of the international search report  18/11/2004   |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  Fax (+31-70) 340-3016   | Authorized officer  Moraîti, M   |

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